

REMARKS

By way of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 7 and 8 were cancelled, claims 1-6 and 9-10 have been amended and new claims 11-15 were added. Thus, claims 1-6, 9-10 and 11-15 are pending. Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application.

Claims 1-6 and 9-10 were amended to place the claims in proper format for examination before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Applicant asserts that the scope of the claims was in no way narrowed by this amendment. Thus, prosecution history estoppel does not apply in this case.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

May 30, 2001

By

[Signature] (28,665)

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Marked-up Claims:

1. (Amended) A [P]process for the preparation of a derivative of a polymer having at least one functional group, [characterized in that] wherein the process comprises [the following step (i)]:

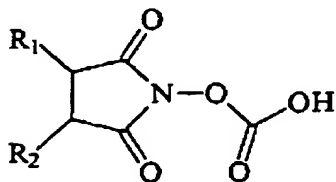
(i) [reaction] reacting [of] the polymer having at least one functional group, with at least one activating reagent or at least one derivative of an activating reagent in a homogeneous phase.

2. (Amended) The [P]process according to Claim 1, [characterized in that it comprises the] further comprising [step (ii)]:

(ii) [reaction] reacting [of] the reaction product from the polymer having at least one functional group and the activating reagent, with a derivatizing reagent.

3. (Amended) The [P]process according to Claim 1, [characterized in that the] wherein at least one derivative of the activating reagent is obtained by prior reaction of the activating reagent with a derivatizing reagent.

4. (Amended) The [P]process according to [one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 3], [characterized in that] wherein the activating reagent is derived from a compound of the following structure (I)



(I)

where R₁ and R₂ are identical or different and [can be] are straight-chain, branched-chain or bridged to give a carbocycle or a heterocycle and are selected such that the

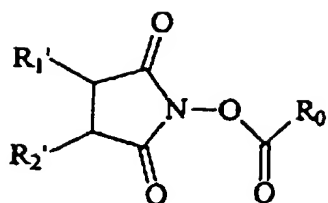
activating reagent or the derivative of the activating reagent can be reacted in homogeneous phase with the polymer having at least one functional group.

5. (Amended) **The [P]process** according to **[one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 4], [characterized in that] wherein** the functional group of the polymer having at least one functional group is an OH group, an NHR_{11} group, an SH group, an OSO_3H group, an SO_3H group, an OPO_3H_2 group, an $\text{OPO}_3\text{HR}_{11}$ group, a PO_3H_2 group, a $\text{PO}_3\text{HR}_{11}$ group, a COOH group or a mixture of two or more of these groups, where R_{11} is in each case selected such that the activating reagent or the derivative of the activating reagent can be reacted in a homogeneous phase with the polymer having at least one functional group.

6. (Amended) **A [D]derivative** of a polymer having at least one functional group, preparable by a process which comprises **[the following step (i):] reacting** **[(i) reaction of]** the polymer having at least one functional group, with an activating reagent or a derivative of an activating reagent in a homogeneous phase.

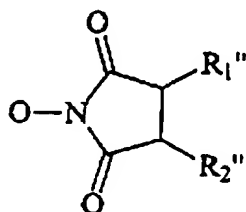
9. (Amended) **A [P]process** for the bonding of at least one substrate to at least one receptor group via non-covalent receptor-substrate interaction, **[characterized in that] wherein [the] a** compound employed having at least one receptor group is a derivative of a polymer having at least one functional group, **wherein said derivative of a polymer having at least one functional group is** prepared by a process according to **[one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 5, or a derivative according to one of Claims 6 to 8].**

10. (Amended) **A [C]compound** of the general structure (X)



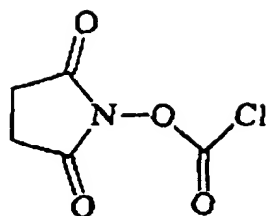
(X)

[characterized in that] wherein R_0 is a halogen atom or a radical of the structure (X')

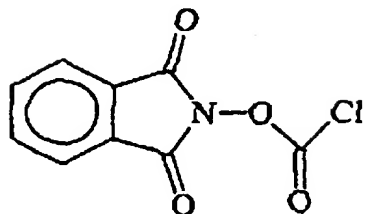


(X')

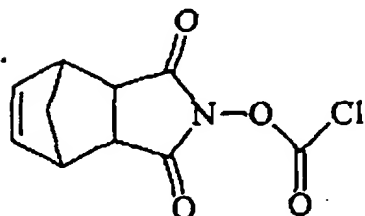
and R_1' , R_2' , R_1'' and R_2'' are identical or different and are hydrogen, straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic or aralkyl radicals having up to 30 C atoms, or either R_1' and R_2' or R_1'' and R_2'' or both R_1' and R_2' and R_1'' and R_2'' are linked to at least one carbocycle or to at least one heterocycle or to at least one carbocycle and to at least one heterocycle, compounds of the following structures (X_1) to (X_7) being excluded:



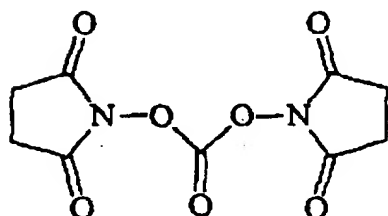
(X₁)



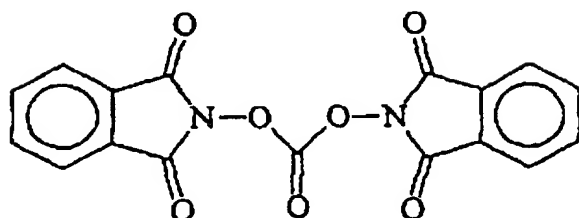
(X₂)



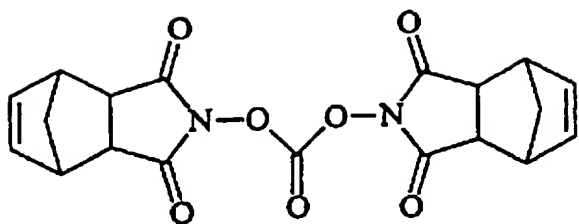
(X₃)



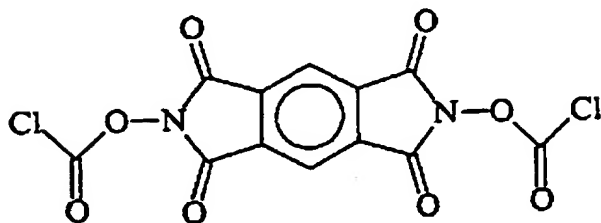
(X₄)



(X₅)



(X₆)



(X₇)

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